

Winter 11-2014

Holy Cross Choirs Newsletter (December 2014)

Choir, College of the Holy Cross

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COLLEGE OF THE *Holy Cross* Newsletter

Lessons and Carols: A Holy Cross Tradition

While most students are busy preparing for final exams, campus seems to come alive in the few weeks leading up to winter break. Whether it's singing carols at the annual tree lighting or walking across campus after the first snowfall, there's something magical about the month of December at the College of the Holy Cross. The Christmas season has to be many students' favorite time of year on Mount Saint James, particularly members of the Holy Cross Choirs. A longstanding tradition beginning in the 1970s, the Festival of Lessons and Carols is the hallmark of the Christmas season at Holy Cross, drawing in patrons from across the greater Worcester community as well as students, staff, and their families who come together to celebrate advent.

This year, the College Choir and Chamber Singers will join with the Holy Cross Chamber Orchestra in one of the most highly anticipated musical events of the year. The service will feature traditional Christmas songs such as *Adam Lay Ybounden*, *Once in Royal David's City*, as well as Bach's *Cantata 61 Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland*, Handel's *For Unto Us a Child is Born* from *Messiah*, and *And See Him Rest*, a piece by Holy Cross senior and student composer Colby Baker. Come and join the Holy Cross community in celebrating the start of the joyous Christmas season!

***The Festival of Lessons and Carols will take place on
December 11, 2014 at 8:00PM in Saint Joseph's Chapel.***

Adam Oullet, Class of 2016

Can't make it to Lessons and Carols?

Watch us live at holycross.edu/live or later at
news.holycross.edu

*For best results ensure that your flash player and browser versions
are up to date*

Calendar of Events

Campus Tree Lighting

12/04/2014, 5:30pm

Chamber Singers

Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

12/11/2014 8:00pm

St. Joseph Memorial Chapel
*College Choir and Chamber
Singers with the Holy Cross
Chamber Orchestra, Abe Ross '16,
organist, and the Holy Cross
Alumni Choir*

Concert with Rochelle Bard

3/19/2015

*College Choir and Chamber
Singers with Rochelle Bard, opera
star, and the Holy Cross Chamber
Orchestra*



Lessons and Carols Program, 2014

Choirs in Review



Sloane Burns, senior choir member, and Father Wilcock, S.J., prior to the premier of *Mass in Honor of Pope Francis* at mass on Sunday, November 23, 2014.

Music of Christopher Wilcock, S.J.

The *Mass in Honor of Pope Francis* was a rousing success. The forces of David Harris (director of the College Choir and Chamber Singers), J.D. Christie (director of the Schola Cantorum), the Holy Cross College and Chamber Choirs, the Schola Cantorum, and Abraham Ross '16 (the College Organ Scholar) all worked together to create an auditory masterpiece. Featuring original songs by the composer Fr. Christopher Willcock, S.J., the choir performed pieces based on traditional Jesuit and Ignatian texts like the *Prayers of Saint Ignatius* and the *Prayer of Saint Francis*. The concert also included settings of storied Catholic texts, such as the famed hymn *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. It truly was a marked event and lent due pomp and circumstance to the 200th anniversary of the restoration of the Society of Jesus, the order upon which the College was founded.

Max Lies, Class of 2017

Family Weekend 2014: Waiting on the World

On October 24th, the Holy Cross College Choir and Chamber Singers performed their first concert of the year, "Waiting For The World". The diverse musical repertoire was both performed well and received well by the audience. Filled with students, families, and alum, St. Joseph's Chapel was transformed into a place of music from all over the world. Under the direction of director, David Harris, the College Choir and Chamber Singers not only learned to sing the music, but also learned how to perform in a way that would captivate the audience.

With all of the details that went into this performance, there was plenty of room for error. Even with a few mishaps, the performance as a whole ran smoothly and rightfully showed the true talent within the College Choir and Chamber Singers. Following the show, there was nothing but positive feedback from the viewers. Moving forward, the Holy Cross College Choir and Chamber Singers hope to continue to work hard through the preparation of the concerts that are to come.

Emma Garaban. Class of 2017

We would like to thank everyone that has reached out with financial support for our Argentina tour thus far!

"Music bears a message we can all understand; it has a beauty all can behold. This trip provides a wonderful way for the Holy Cross Choir to convey the message and share that beauty to a new audience while affording the members of the choir a rich experience for themselves. They are wonderful ambassadors for the college."

—Larry Rutkowski '75

Alumni, are you interested in singing more with your Holy Cross family?

Recent alumni are forming an affinity group with the goal of forming an official Holy Cross Alumni Choir directed by David Harris. The first opportunity to join is at Lessons and Carols this year and on tour with the choir in Argentina in the spring. If you're interested in singing, or helping the group form, contact Adrian Fekula at adrianpfekula@gmail.com and put "Alumni Choir" in the subject.

-Catherine, Catherine, Adrian, and Christina

Getting off the Hill: Our Trip to Argentina

For the first time in seven years, the Holy Cross College Choir will travel to Argentina for a concert tour, service opportunities, and cultural exchange. In preparation for the tour, choir members are learning and performing Argentinian music as a part of the choir's repertoire. While some members of the choir may not speak the Spanish language, music is a language that all can understand to some degree.

By leaving the familiar choir room on Hogan 5th floor and travelling very far from the Hill choir members call home, the College Choir creates an opportunity to share the mission of the College of the Holy Cross, Jesuit ideals, American cultural, and a particular understanding of music with the Argentinian people. Through service projects with local Argentinian communities, choir members will live out Father Arrupe's idea of "men and women for and with others." All the while, these students will enrich their own lives and bring back to Mount Saint James close relationships with and a deeper understanding for Argentina and its people.

The ability to share these experiences with as many choir members as possible, past and present, is the goal and priority of the choir this year. Through fundraising efforts, choir members are now learning about the process of receiving donations while also developing relationships with each other and especially our generous supporters. The choir invites all choir alumni to participate in its tour of Argentina. If interested, contact director, David Harris, at jdharris@holycross.edu. This tour has great promise and choir members look forward to all the enriching experiences and opportunities the process has to offer.

Nicole Costa, Class of 2015



Choir members, at their first phone-a-thon, talk to HC alumni about donating to the Argentina tour.

Watching New Become the Norm A first-year member's account of joining Holy Cross Choirs

When I visited Holy Cross as a high school senior in October of 2013, I met with choral music director David Harris. He told me that, since it was his first year in the position, he hoped to revitalize the College Choir and Chamber Singers and raise their standards to new heights. Now, as a first-year member of both of these ensembles, I am a witness to Professor Harris' efforts. His innovative approach to choral singing and diverse selection of music make for a unique and rewarding vocal experience.

Returning singers have also noticed the new direction of the choral ensembles. Tenor section leader Adam Ouellet '16 said, "For the past two years the choir has been working to make a name for itself not only across campus but in the greater Worcester and New England area. As a result, campus enthusiasm for the choirs has increased dramatically. More people are talking about how great the group is and how they are looking forward to our next concert."

The choirs of Holy Cross have certainly picked up some momentum. Since this is only the beginning, I look forward to seeing how much further we will advance together.

Philip Losquadro, Class of 2018

Want more HC Choirs in your life?

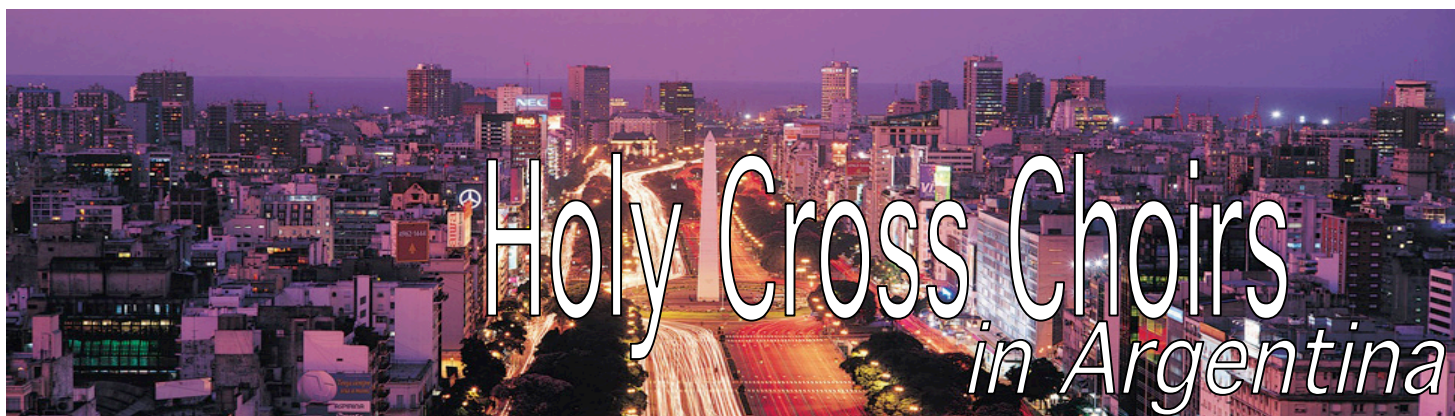
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Holy Cross Choirs

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@holycrosschoirs



In gratitude for your generosity, we will invite you to experience parts of this journey with us so that you may see your kindness at work and will include you as a member of the sponsor level below:

\$10,000 – Choir Director's Circle

All Tour Sponsor benefits + private choir performance at a personal event

\$5,000 – Tour Sponsor

All Tour Leader benefits + feature in quarterly choir newsletter

\$2,500 – Tour Leader

All Student Sponsor benefits + President's Council membership + email updates from individual student participants

\$1,000 – Student Sponsor

All Choir Supporter benefits + invitation to a pre-trip choir rehearsal

\$500 – Choir Supporter

All Choir Enthusiast benefits + CD of the College Choir

\$100 – Choir Enthusiast

All Friend of Choir benefits + Email updates from David Harris and student participants as they study Argentinian music and travel to Argentina

\$50 – Friend of Choir

Thank you postcard from choir students

By now you have probably heard about our upcoming trip to Argentina. We are immensely excited for this opportunity to have an immersive cultural experience that connects us more deeply with the music we study during the year, to help our Holy Cross singers thrive in the liberal arts model of learning as well as in the Jesuit tradition, and to work together in connection and service with each community we engage in Argentina.

One of the key goals of this trip is to be able to have the entire choir participate, as it is an important aspect of the concert year. In addition to connecting with the local community in Argentina, this trip will provide our students the opportunity to further build community within the ensemble allowing for greater expression and passion in their performances and strengthened connections amongst the singers.

Trips of this magnitude are not within reach for all Holy Cross students and outside support will be critical in ensuring our entire ensemble can participate. In addition to what you might ordinarily give to the College, we hope you may consider helping to provide access to this travel opportunity to students who can't otherwise afford to go. If you are interested in supporting this trip, please call the Holy Cross Fund office at 508-793-2421 or email Sara Swillo Muckian '05, associate director of the Holy Cross Fund at sswillo@holycross.edu.

Consider having the Holy Cross Choirs sing for you!

Are you hosting a Christmas party?

Maybe you have another event at which singers would boost the profile, and for which you'd like to make a donation to the choir?

Choral music changes events, help us help you by hiring us to perform in order to make Argentina a possibility for everyone.

If interested, contact Director David Harris at jdharris@holycoss.edu with inquiries!